

Anniston
Winter 2003

Contact Us

**Anniston Chemical
Demilitarization Community
Outreach Office**

11 East 10th Street
Anniston, AL 36201
(256) 238-0120

Outreach Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

Independent report concludes incineration is safe

The National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC) issued a report Dec. 2002, regarding chemical weapons events. The lead paragraph of its press release on the report states, "Chemical weapons stored in Alabama, Arkansas, and Oregon can be safely incinerated as long as facility managers follow rigorous procedures, encourage a strong culture of safety among personnel, and learn from unanticipated incidents that occurred at the first two facilities designed to destroy chemical munitions..."

Tim Garrett, project manager of the Army's Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, said of the report titled *Evaluation of Chemical Events at Army Chemical Agent Disposal Facilities*, "I hope community members use this report as impetus to keep informed and involved in the chemical weapons disposal process."

The National Academy of Sciences is an independent, private, nonprofit society of scientists and engineers that advises the federal government on scientific and technical matters. Motivated by congressional concern about incidents at the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), southwest of Hawaii, and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) in Utah, the NRC prepared this report.

The committee reviewed process technology, operations, training, maintenance and management to identify possible causes of 81 incidents at TOCDF and JACADS. They examined risk management and safety programs, emergency response activities,

visited the two facilities, interviewed personnel, met with then Congressman Bob Riley (R-Ala.) and with representatives from Calhoun and Talladega counties, and citizens and government officials from Alabama, met with activists, and received presentations from the then chair of the Utah Citizens Advisory Commission and from a former employee and whistle-blower from TOCDF. The Anniston facility also was visited.

Two chemical events occurred at TOCDF and JACADS after this report was prepared, but the preface notes that the incidents were "... similar in nature to events analyzed by the committee and reinforce the validity of the findings and the utility of the recommendations presented in this report."

The report found that "destruction of aging chemical munitions should proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with operational activities designed to protect the health and safety of the workforce, the public, and the environment."

Continued on page 2



Anniston operators work on a conveyor line in the munitions demilitarization building.

Independent report concludes incineration is safe

Continued from page 1

It made 19 recommendations in the areas of chemical events data and definition, monitoring, risk assessment, event investigation and analyses, impacts of chemical events, establishing a safety culture and new facility start-up.

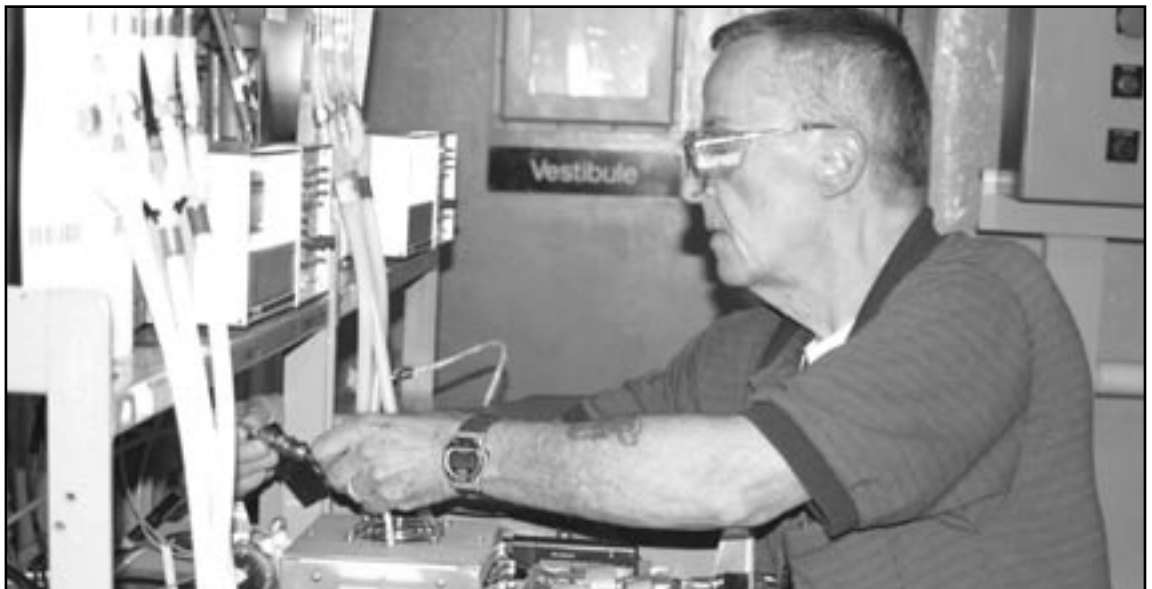
Garrett welcomed the recommendations. “We are totally committed to the safety of the work force, public and environment. All of the NRC’s recommendations are being studied; many of them are already in place or are being implemented at Anniston,” he said. “We recognize that a strong safety culture is critical to safe disposal of the chemical agent stockpile. Safety is our number one priority.”

Garrett noted that the site has a rigorous training program, including regular retraining. “Our operators are trained at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in Maryland. Once they complete that training they return to Anniston for additional on- site training,” Garrett stressed that, “Each qualified operator has to go through a hands-on certification program here at Anniston. In other words, they have to know the process and then demonstrate proficiency in putting that knowledge into use safely.”

He concluded, “This report from national scientists and technical experts adds weight to the congressional mandate for us to safely dispose of the aging munitions stockpiled here at Anniston. I promise that we will proceed with that mission safely and effectively. We are fully committed to moving ahead and removing the stockpile storage risk from our community; for ourselves, our families, friends and neighbors.”

The NRC report agrees. “...the remaining chemical weapons stockpile are significant hazards to the communities surrounding them... destruction of the aging chemical weapons should proceed as quickly as possible consistent with operational activities designed to protect the health and safety of the workforce, the public and the environment.”

The complete report is available for viewing on-line at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309086299/html/> or it can be read at the Anniston Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 11 East 10th Street, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.



An Anniston plant technician calibrates agent monitoring equipment.

ANCDF names plant manager



Westinghouse Anniston Project Manager Bob Love has announced the appointment of a new plant manager for the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF). Ken Ankrom, with more than 16 years of chemical demilitarization experience, took over the top slot in October

2002. Referring to the Anniston native's extensive background, Love said that Ankrom has been destroying chemical weapons for so long that some are beginning to call him the "Father of Chemical Demilitarization."

"The experience Ken brings as plant manager is a huge asset to the project," said Love. "As we move toward agent operations, Ken's leadership, plant knowledge and team building skills will prove invaluable. I look forward to working with Ken as we eliminate the risk to this community by safely disposing of chemical weapons."

Ankrom replaces Doug Hamrick, who takes over as project manager at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Oregon.

After spending six years in the Navy, Ankrom began his chemical demilitarization career in 1986 as the shift plant manager for the BZ Chemical Demilitarization Facility in Pine Bluff, Ark. In 1989, he moved to Maryland where he worked as systemization manager and test evaluation group manager at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility (CDTF). It was at the CDTF where Ankrom made a name for himself by aiding in the development of the chemical demilitarization equipment and processes that are used today.

Ankrom joined the ANCDF family in 1996 as the systemization manager, later becoming start-up manager. He developed the systemization approach for ANCDF using a combination of industrial and chemical demilitarization practices. Ankrom has been called upon a number of times to help resolve project challenges at WGI's sister sites at Pine Bluff, Umatilla, and Johnston Atoll in the Pacific.

Ankrom and his wife, Susan, are the parents of two daughters.

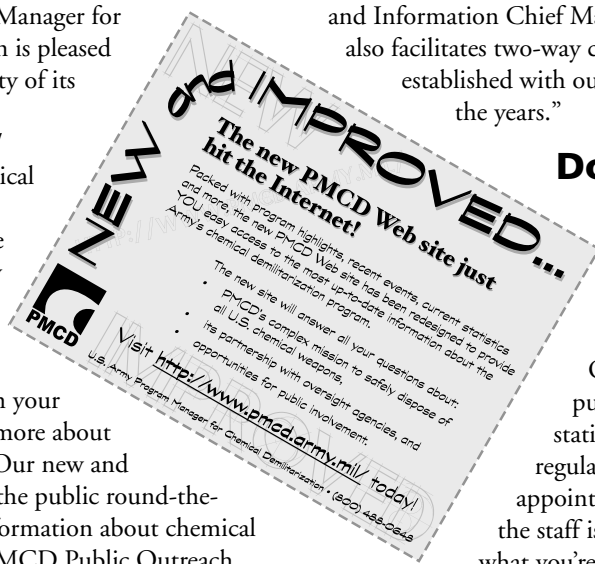
Redesigned PMCD Web site now available! Visit <http://www.pmcd.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization is pleased to announce the availability of its redesigned Web site! Visit <http://www.pmcd.army.mil> to learn more about chemical weapons disposal in your community and across the country. The user-friendly site features up-to-date information on meetings, information booths and other events in your area where you can learn more about this important mission. "Our new and improved Web site offers the public round-the-clock access to current information about chemical weapons disposal," said PMCD Public Outreach

and Information Chief Marilyn Daughdrill. "It also facilitates two-way communication we have established with our stakeholders over the years."

Don't have access to the Web?

The Anniston Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has a public access computer station you can use during regular business hours. No appointments are necessary, and the staff is available to help you find what you're looking for.



"Our new and improved Web site offers the public round-the-clock access to current information about chemical weapons disposal."

*—Marilyn Daughdrill,
PMCD Public Outreach and
Information Chief*

We want to hear from you

The Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office serves as a clearinghouse of information about the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Anniston Chemical Depot and the Army's plans for its disposal. The outreach office has informational materials that can address your questions or concerns.

If you would like more information about the Anniston Chemical Demilitarization Community Outreach Office, please call (256) 238-0120 or return this form by mail to:

Anniston Chemical Demilitarization
Community Outreach Office
11 East 10th Street
Anniston, AL 36201

Would you like to be added to our mailing list?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like an information packet mailed to you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered yes to either of these questions, please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

The outreach office schedules presentations that can be given to community groups, clubs, organizations, etc. If you know of a community group that might be interested, please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

